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Philosophy paper

The personal strengths that I bring to the instructional environment would be the extent of which I have used technology in my past. I have had multiple opportunities to use technology in school projects and in daily life. I also do exceptionally well at figuring things out pertaining to the use and function of technology. These experiences have shaped the way I view the use of technology in the classroom and how I would like to use it in the future.

When I have my own classroom I want to try and incorporate technology in the activities we do. I will hopefully have a Smartboard and will want to use it in daily activities. I will use it for the morning meeting where we will talk about the date, weather and birthdays happening. I will also plan lessons around the use of the Smartboard because I think it is a great way to engage the children and include them throughout their learning experience. I have viewed several websites that would allow for the children to be interactive with the Smartboard and learn essential skills such as, reading, writing and math. I will also use cameras and video cameras to document students work. “When children see photos of themselves taking part in activities, they feel valued and proud of what they can do (Sprague, & Blagojevic). I will then transfer them to an electronic portfolio so parents will be able to see their child’s progress. I think it is important for the students to be given the chance to use the cameras and video cameras as well. They will be able to take pictures and record themselves; this will also be added to the portfolio.

The cautionary advice I have for others about the use of technology pertains to the use of websites. Websites can be very misleading even if they are designed for children. There can be many things hidden in a website which can mislead children and discourage their learning. “Choosing appropriate internet content in the classroom depends, of course, on the educational goals for its use and the students who will be using it. However, there are some general criteria one can use to evaluate whether or not a site or online activity is developmentally appropriate for young children. **Curriculum match, age appropriateness, instructions, child control and complexity, content concerns, real world models, and technical quality and features” (Schanen, 2003). It is important to look at all of these things when investigating whether or not a website is safe to use in the classroom. There are many online resources for teachers to use that list different appropriate websites. This doesn’t mean that they still shouldn’t make sure that they are appropriate for their particular classroom.**

**A particular activity that captured my interest was the Glogs that we created for a child. During this activity I was able to use my creativity to show the child’s personality. It was a very effective way to document a child because you are able to add video, pictures and audio. I enjoyed this project so much that I spend too much time changing colors, fonts and adding more ideas. I think this would be fun to incorporate my classroom. The children would be able to create a Glog and work on it over the year adding videos, audio files and pictures of themselves. “**When you integrate technology into an area of education where it is not traditionally used, it instantly becomes a great motivator for students” (Wylie, 2010). **At the end of the year there would be a time for the students to present their projects to their families. I think this would be a great way to end the year and reflect on the past experiences and learning that had occurred.**

**One question I still have regarding the use of technology and early learners in how to advocate for it when the school doesn’t necessarily promote it. Throughout my experience observing schools I have seen schools that highly promote it and some that don’t think it is necessary at all. After learning about the effective ways to use technology in the classroom I have come to the understanding that it is very beneficial to children’s learning. I want to meet my schools needs but I also want to meet the needs of my students. I will make sure to research and talk to the school about their ideas and issues regarding the use of technology but I want to be able to advocate for it and give them the reasons that it promotes development.**

After taking this class I have seen my attitudes towards using technology shift. My original thought before was that it was a waste of time. Children couldn’t possibly be learning anything for an online educational game. Part of the reason that I felt this way is because of an experience I had in a computer lab with 5th grade students. The computer programs they were working on were very easy and so they weren’t learning anything from using them at all. I have now been able to see how technology can be used in classroom effectively. That one experience had originally shaped my view but now that I have had more experience I definitely find it beneficial to use technology in the classroom.

I have set aside two goals for myself for my future growth in this area. The first one is to learn about all different websites and their benefits. For the other I want to practice using programs and websites at my internships site. I want to make sure I am continually learning about new websites and programs and their benefits for when I enter a school setting. If I am well prepared and understand the usage of many programs I will feel more confident using them with the students. I also want to try and use some of the programs and websites that we have used in class at my internship site because I think it will provide me with a great learning experience for my future teaching career.

References:

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